

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00
/072 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/KCSMITH/HECOLE:CM
APPROVED BY EUR-.GEORGE VEST
P ISO PSC -D
EUR/RPM/JFROEBE
DOD/ SD/ SIENA
EUR/WE/EMROWELL

- - - - -

-----045983 021106Z /15

R 020121Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
INFO USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139643

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PO

SUBJECT: LAJES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BONN 7694

1. IF LISBON CONCURS, BONN MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING
IN BRIEFING FMOD OFFICE DIRECTOR BACKES, FMOD STATE
SECRETARY HIEHLE, AND FONOFF OFFICIAL HAVING NEGOTIATING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR BEJA. THE OUTLINES AND AMOUNTS OF OUR
ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL (PARA 5 BELOW), HOWEVER, ARE BEING
VERY CLOSELY HELD. THEY MUST NOT REPEAT NOT BE REVEALED
TO THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS NOR MAY THE GERMAN RECIPIENTS
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DISCLOSE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE INFORMATION.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE 1951 AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL
GOVERNING OUR USE OF LAJES BASE FACILITIES IN THE AZORES
EXPIRED, FOLLOWING VARIOUS RENEWALS, IN FEBRUARY 1974.
SINCE THEN WE HAVE CONTINUED USING THE BASE UNDER TERMS OF
THE AGREEMENT WHICH PERMIT SUCH USE WHILE NEGOTIATIONS

ARE UNDERWAY.

3. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS: IN A JOINT PRESS STATEMENT MADE SEPTEMBER 27, 1977, AT THE UNGA BY SECRETARY VANCE AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA, BOTH SIDES AGREED

TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE WITH THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT GRANTING THE UNITED STATES FACILITIES AT LAJES. BOTH GOVERNMENTS CONFIRMED THEIR DESIRE TO SEE CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONVERSATIONS CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT CALL INTO QUESTION THE CONTINUED USE OF THE BASE BY THE U.S.
END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER COMMUNIQUE A PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS PUT BASE RENEWAL ON THE BACK BURNER. EARLY THIS YEAR THE NEW GOVERNMENT COMMITTED ITSELF TO AN EARLY RENEWAL OF THE LAJES AGREEMENT IN ITS COMMON PLATFORM. PRIME MINISTER SOARES AND AZOREAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT MOTA AMARAL HAVE ALSO SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF AN AGREEMENT.

4. TRADITIONAL AZOREAN SUSPICION OF LISBON HAS COMPLICATED AND SLOWED THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THE NEW
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PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION THE ISLAND GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS A DELEGATE ON GOP'S INTRAGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH NEGOTIATING THE NEW AGREEMENT. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER SOARES' SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE AZOREAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HAVE HINDERED EFFECTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN LISBON AND THE AZORES ON BASE RENEWAL. AZOREAN REGIONAL AUTHORITIES ALSO HAVE USED THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATING PREROGATIVE AS A LEVER TO TRY TO EXTRACT FROM LISBON FIRM COMMITMENT TO FINANCE A SUBSTANTI AS MUCH AS \$350-375 MILLION) LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THE AZORES.

5. NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE. WITH THE SEPTEMBER COMMUNIQUE (PARA 2) WE HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING BASIC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING A RENEWAL AGREEMENT:

A. BY ONE EXCHANGE OF NOTES THE PORTUGUESE WOULD OFFER AND WE WOULD ACCEPT WITHOUT CHANGES, ANOTHER EXTENSION OF THE OLD AGREEMENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS DATING FROM THE FEBRUARY 1974 EXPIRY OF THE 1971 RENEWAL. (WE WANT A

TEN-YEAR RENEWAL.) ANY CHANGES IN TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS, E.G. ON LOCAL LABOR, HOUSING, STATUS OF FORCES, WOULD BE RESOLVED DIRECTLY BY US, DOD AND PORTUGUESE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN ACCORD WITH ARTICLE I OF THE TO-BE-RENEWED 1951 AGREEMENT.

B. THERE WOULD BE A SEPARATE EXCHANGE OF NOTES PROVIDING FOR SOME LIMITED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. (THIS PATTERN WAS FOLLOWED IN THE 1971 RENEWAL.) WE HAVE PROPOSED A TOTAL GRANT OF \$120 MILLION, HALF MILITARY AND HALF ECONOMIC, TO BE DISBURSED OVER THE REMAINING LIFE OF THE RENEWAL. END CONFIDENTIAL

C. IN FOLLOWING THIS PROCEDURE WE AND THE PORTUGUESE
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RECOGNIZE THAT THE LAJES BASE AGREEMENT IS ONE PART OF A LARGER RELATIONSHIP THAT GOES BEYOND OUR MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS IN NATO. THIS CONCEPT JUSTIFIES ON BROAD POLICY GROUNDS (THE CONSOLIDATION AND PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL) THE MAJOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO PORTUGAL OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

6. MAY 31 PRESS STATEMENT ON MEETING OF PRESIDENTS CARTER AND EANES (STATE 138343 BEING REPEATED TO BONN) REAFFIRMED POINTS IN PARA 2.

7. FOR LISBON: PLEASE ADVISE BONN AND SECSTATE IF YOU CONCUR IN RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION TO FRG AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 1. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE139643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CM
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780231-0059
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806101/aaaadjgs.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b213777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 7694
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2141607
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAJES NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, PO, US
To: BONN LISBON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b213777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014